

**New York FY 2015  
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement  
(ACEP-ALE)**

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for 50 percent or less,</li> <li>▪ 4 points for greater than 50 percent and less than or equal to 60 percent,</li> <li>▪ 8 points for greater than 60 percent and less than or equal to 70 percent,</li> <li>▪ 12 points for greater than 70 percent and less than or equal to 80 percent,</li> <li>▪ 16 points for greater than 80 percent</li> </ul>	16	
Are landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3 points for Yes,</li> <li>▪ 0 points for No</li> </ul>	3	
Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for 33 percent or less,</li> <li>▪ 4 points for greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent,</li> <li>▪ 8 points for greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent,</li> <li>▪ 16 points for greater than 50 percent</li> </ul>	16	
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture ( <a href="#">USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for a ratio of 1.0 or less,</li> <li>▪ 7 points for ratios of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0,</li> <li>▪ 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)</li> </ul>	15	
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture ( <a href="#">USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less,</li> <li>▪ 1 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent,</li> <li>▪ 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent,</li> <li>▪ 9 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent,</li> <li>▪ 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent</li> </ul>	15	

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<p><u>Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (0 points for growth rate of less than 1 times the State growth rate,</li> <li>▪ 4 points for growth rate of greater than 1 and less than or equal to 2 times the State growth rate,</li> <li>▪ 7 points for growth rate of 2 and less than or equal to 3 times the State growth rate,</li> <li>▪ 15 points for growth rate of more than 3 times the State growth rate</li> </ul>	15	
<p><u>Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for population density less than 1 times the State population density,</li> <li>▪ 4 points for population density of greater than 1 and less than or equal to 2 times the State population density,</li> <li>▪ 7 points for population density of greater than 2 and less than or equal to 3 times the State population density,</li> <li>▪ 15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density</li> </ul>	15	
<p>Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points for no plan,</li> <li>▪ 7 points for a plan,</li> <li>▪ 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional</li> </ul>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary,</li> <li>▪ 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land,</li> <li>▪ 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary,</li> <li>▪ 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary</li> </ul>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity,</li> <li>▪ 4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity,</li> <li>▪ 7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity,</li> <li>▪ 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</li> </ul>	15	
<p>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15 points if the parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use,</li> <li>▪ 6 points if parcel expands agricultural use protected area,</li> <li>▪ 0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</li> </ul>	15	

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Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 points if Yes,</li> <li>0 points if No</li> </ul>	15	
The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 points if Yes,</li> <li>0 points if No</li> </ul>	15	
Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 points for Yes,</li> <li>0 points for No</li> </ul>	15	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

**New York State Ranking Factors  
(Maximum of 200 Points)**

Resource Concerns addressed		
Offered acres within an Agricultural District/Zone 20 points – Yes              0 points - No	20	
Offered acres within Priority Geographic Regions  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 points Lower Hudson/Catskills/Long Island</li> <li>15 points Finger Lakes/Great Lakes Plain</li> <li>5 points Upper Hudson/Champlain Valley</li> <li>0 points outside of Priority Geographic Areas</li> </ul>	30	
Contains State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 points for Yes,</li> <li>0 points for No</li> </ul>	30	
Letter of support from Town and/or County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 points – Yes</li> <li>0 points - No</li> </ul>	30	
Applicant farm currently participates in conservation Technical/Financial Assistance Programs (choose only one)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 points for parcels that have a completed Resource Management System Plan or Whole Farm Plan</li> <li>15 points for parcels that have a completed Conservation Plan</li> <li>10 points for parcels that have developed and signed either a resource management</li> </ul>	30	

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<p>system (RMS Plan) or conservation plan prior to application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 points for parcels that have completed Tier II of the Agricultural Environmental Management Program</li> </ul> <p>0 points for twenty five percent or less</p>		
<p>Parcel is identified as a Historical site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30 points if listed on National or State Historic Register</li> <li>▪ 0 points - No</li> </ul>	30	
<p>Parcel has the following existing critical documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Preliminary Title Report</b></li> <li><b>2) Survey of Conservation Easement Boundary Completed</b></li> <li><b>3) Draft version of Baseline Documentation</b></li> <li><b>4) Monitoring Plan</b></li> <li><b>5) Certified, signed appraisal</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30 points if application includes at least 5 of the 6 critical documents</li> <li>▪ 20 points if application includes 4 of the listed critical documents</li> <li>▪ 10 points if application includes 3 of the listed critical documents</li> <li>▪ 5 points if application includes 2 of the listed critical documents</li> <li>▪ 2.5 points if application includes 1 of the listed critical documents</li> </ul> <p>0 points if critical documents are not included in application</p>	30	
Total Points for State Ranking Factors	200	